

# OrdnanceReports

News updates from around the world



February 7, 2003



*This publication is produced by the U.S. Army Ordnance Corps Communications Coordinator. The purpose of this publication is to provide Command Information materiel concerning world events and the U.S. military's role in those events. Ordnance specific events will be covered if appropriate. Direct your correspondence to Ed Starnes at 410-278-2415 (DSN 298-2415), or email [edward.starnes@ocs.apg.army.mil](mailto:edward.starnes@ocs.apg.army.mil).*

## Bush administration raises terror alert

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Bush administration Friday raised the national terror alert from yellow to orange, the second-highest level in the color-coded system. Attorney General John Ashcroft cited an “increased likelihood” that the al-Qaeda terror network would attack Americans, either at home or abroad.

Ashcroft said apartment buildings, hotels or other “lightly secured targets” in the United States could be vulnerable. The attorney general also said terrorists might seek “economic targets, including the transportation and energy sectors, as well as symbolic targets and symbols of American power.”

He told a Justice Department news conference the decision was based on an increase in intelligence pointing to a possible attack by Osama bin Laden’s organization timed to coincide with the hajj, the annual Muslim pilgrimage to Mecca in Saudi Arabia, Islam’s holiest site. The holy period begins Saturday and ends mid-February.

Tens of thousands of pilgrims are traveling during the period before and after the five-day Hajj, straining the ability of security officials to keep track of militants who might use the occasion to reposition themselves.

The change in the alert level will trigger a government-wide increase in security precautions.

“We are not recommending that events be canceled,” nor should individuals change their travel, work or recreational plans, Ashcroft said.

Even so, Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge urged Americans “in the days ahead, take some time to prepare for emergencies.” As an example, Ridge suggested that families devise plans for contacting one another if separated by an emergency.

“Terrorist attacks can really take many forms,” he said.

White House press secretary Ari Fleischer said the decision to raise the alert level was made after the president’s daily CIA and FBI briefings and upon the recommendation of Ashcroft and Ridge. That recommendation was delivered after the homeland security council spent over an hour poring over new intelligence in the White House situation room.



**See explanation  
of advisory/alert  
system on page 7**

*Attorney General John Ashcroft announces raising the national terror alert from yellow to orange at the Justice Department in Washington Friday, Feb. 7, 2003. Ashcroft cited an “increased likelihood” that the al-Qaeda terror network would attack against Americans, either at home or abroad. (AP Photo/Charles Dharapak)*

When given the recommendation, Bush said, “I agree. Change the code,” according to Fleischer.

The alert has been at code yellow, or “elevated,” which is the middle of a five-point scale of risk developed after the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks. It was last raised to orange in September and stayed there for two weeks to coincide with the first anniversary of the attacks. The highest alert level is red.

Ashcroft said there was a “sound basis” for the decision. However, he declined to go beyond that.

“This decision for an increased threat condition designation is based on specific intelligence received and analyzed by the full intelligence community. This information has been corroborated by multiple intelligence sources,” Ashcroft said.

Other officials said U.S. preparation for a possible war with Iraq was also a factor in the decision to raise the alert status.

**continued on page 2**

## **Bush administration raises terror alert continued**

“Since September the 11th, the U.S. intelligence community has indicated that the al-Qaeda terrorist network is still determined to attack innocent Americans, both here and abroad,” Ashcroft said.

He said the recent bombings of a nightclub in Bali, Indonesia, and of a resort hotel in Mombasa, Kenya, “demonstrate the continued willingness of al-Qaeda to strike at peaceful, innocent civilians.”

Ashcroft also said the global terror network could even try to mount a chemical, biological or radiological attack.

Ridge said local and state law enforcement agencies, the nation’s governors, many mayors and Congress had been informed in the change in the alert status. “We’re asking all these leaders to increase their security and vigilance wherever necessary,” he said.

Ridge outlined the threat Friday morning in a conference call with the nation’s governors, urging them to increase their security efforts and discussing confidential security precautions. He also plans to talk to congressional leaders and to several dozen business leaders who control critical infrastructure, which could include electric power grids, dams or nuclear plants.

The public will likely see some changes, such as delays at some facilities and events and some buildings will be harder to enter. Other precautions, however, will be secret and go largely unnoticed by most people.

Examples cited by Fleischer included more random inspections of baggage at airports, tighter scrutiny at U.S. orders and more checks of cargo coming into U.S. ports.

Government officials have grown increasingly concerned about the likelihood of terrorist attacks within the United States as intelligence sources are reporting an increase in terrorist activity or “chatter.” One official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said this activity appeared to be peaking and was rivaling that seen before the Sept. 11, 2001 terror attacks.

Officials are increasingly worried that al-Qaeda and other terrorist groups might try to use chemical, biological or radiological weapons such as a “dirty bomb” that spews radiation into the atmosphere over a relatively confined area. There is no evidence, they say, that al-Qaeda has acquired nuclear weapons but there is ample proof that it was working with a variety of harmful substances.

There is also concern that individual al-Qaeda member or sympathizers could attempt small-scale attacks, such as a shooting or suicide bombing.

The State Department on Thursday issued a worldwide caution to Americans about a greater risk of terrorism, including “suicide operations, assassinations or kidnappings” as well as use of chemical or biological agents.

The reasoning behind Bush’s decision was unclear early Friday. One U.S. official said there was no specific threat made, but the increase in chilling U.S. intelligence — much of it corroborated —

led the administration to determine that there was sufficient reason to put Americans on notice.

U.S. preparation for a possible war with Iraq and Saturday’s start of the Hajj were also key factors in the decision to raise the alert status. Muslim holy periods tend to raise jitters about terrorist activity among U.S. intelligence officials.

## **Rumsfeld to troops: You protect America from further terrorist attacks**

by Kathleen T. Rhem, American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, Feb. 7, 2003 — America’s service members stand between safety and an evil that must not be allowed to win, Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld told U.S. troops this morning at Aviano Air Base, Italy.

The secretary said the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks could pale in comparison to what terrorists could do if they get hold of weapons of mass destruction.

“Your task, our task, is to disrupt terrorists and terrorist networks and states that harbor terrorists, and do everything humanly possible to see that they do not get their hands on those powerful weapons,” Rumsfeld said. “You’re what stands between freedom and fear, between the safety of our people and an evil that cannot be appeased, it cannot be ignored, and it must not be allowed to win.

“The hopes of mankind depend on your success,” he told the troops. “You’re doing a magnificent job, and it is appreciated by all of us.”

Rumsfeld spoke to them about the sacrifices they and others are making by being far from home and loved ones. “It’s never easy to be far from home, no matter what the mission,” he said. “It’s tough on you, and it can be tough on your families as well.”

After his brief remarks, Rumsfeld took questions from the group. Service members asked about subjects ranging from the political situation in Turkey, where many American airmen have been stationed, to what is being done to protect Israel from possible Iraqi attack. Others asked about deployment schedules, the fielding of the Joint Strike Fighter and the smallpox vaccine.

The secretary answered questions using his characteristic humor to allay troops’ concerns. But he also warned them there are other threats on the horizon after Iraq, specifically North Korea.

“We recognize that we still live in a dangerous world. We live in an untidy world. We live in a new security environment. And we can live in that world; we can. We can do it,” he said. “We can’t do it without paying attention. We can’t do it without a terrific armed force that we have here. We can’t do it without working closely with our allies, because we do live in a world that’s increasingly independent. But we can do it, and by golly, we will.”

# Bush urges U.N. not to back down, says 'the game is over' for Saddam

Stars and Stripes

by James Kuhnhehn, Joseph L. Galloway and  
Martin Merzer, Knight Ridder

WASHINGTON — A grim President Bush prepared the nation for war Thursday, issuing a blunt review of Iraqi misdeeds, charging that Saddam Hussein has authorized the use of chemical weapons against U.S. troops and saying, "The game is over."

His statement from the White House came a few hours after the Army's 101st Airborne Division, a premier unit that often spearheads invasions, received orders to deploy overseas.

The Army's only air-assault division and one with a particularly rich history, the 101st Airborne and its helicopter gunships will deploy to the U.S. Central Command's area of responsibility, which includes the Persian Gulf, military officials said.

Administration officials say war against Iraq could start at the beginning of March.

"All the world can rise to this moment," Bush said with Secretary of State Colin Powell standing by his side. "The community of free nations can show that it is strong and confident and determined to keep the peace.

"Saddam Hussein has the motive and the means and the recklessness and the hatred to threaten the American people. Saddam Hussein will be stopped."

In a related development, the State Department issued a new worldwide caution Thursday to Americans overseas, based on what officials said was new intelligence about threats to U.S. citizens.

Intelligence officials, speaking on the condition of anonymity, said intercepted communications and other intelligence indicated that terrorists affiliated with Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida organization and other groups were preparing to attack Americans, Jews and other targets if the United States led an invasion of Iraq.

"Terrorist use of nonconventional weapons, including chemical or biological agents, must be considered a growing threat," the warning said.



The game is over, declares President Bush as he reaffirms his commitment to ridding Iraq of its leader Saddam Hussein, during remarks in the Roosevelt Room at the White House in Washington, Thursday, Feb. 6, 2003. He is joined at left by Secretary of State Colin Powell who presented the U.S. case against Iraq to the United Nations yesterday. (AP Photo/J. Scott Applewhite).

During a visit to Capitol Hill, Powell said the crisis over Iraq would reach a climax "one way or another" within weeks. "I think we are reaching an end game," Powell told the largely supportive Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

He said fresh backing still might come from the U.N. Security Council, depending on the outcome of a trip to Baghdad this weekend by chief weapons inspectors Hans Blix and Mohamed ElBaradei.

Those inspectors pointed to the talks in Iraq — and to their report Feb. 14 to the Security Council — as key mileposts along the road to the disarmament of Iraq or to war.

"Our mission in Baghdad this weekend is crucial," ElBaradei said during a stopover in London. "We hope we will secure full, 100 percent cooperation on the part of Iraq."

Said Powell: "I think it'll start to come to a head when Dr. Blix and Dr. ElBaradei return from Baghdad and we see whether or not there is any chance of serious progress."

One possible sign of movement emerged Thursday when Iraq said that one of its weapons experts had submitted to a private interview with U.N. inspectors. The report was confirmed by the United Nations, which has demanded unmonitored access to all Iraqi weapons experts.

**continued on page 4**

## **Bush urges U.N. not to back down, says ‘the game is over’ for Saddam continued**

In Bush’s statement, he urged the United Nations to stand truly united against Iraq. He said its credibility and its future were at stake.

“The United Nations can renew its purpose and be a source of stability and security in the world,” the president said. “The Security Council can affirm that it is able and prepared to meet future challenges and other dangers.”

He said sources have told the United States that Saddam “recently authorized Iraqi field commanders to use chemical weapons, the very weapons the dictator tells the world he does not have.”

Bush also predicted that Saddam would begin what he called “another round of empty concessions, transparently false denials.

“No doubt he will play a last-minute game of deception. The game is over.”

The precise location for the deployment of the 101st Airborne and the number of soldiers weren’t disclosed, but a military statement said the unit “will provide Central Command substantial operational flexibility and combat power, as well as the ability to conduct long-range helicopter attacks and air assault operations.”

Maj. Carl Purvis, a military spokesman, said the 101st would deploy out of Jacksonville, Fla., via plane and ship.

“The president of the United State has made no decision about any future military operations,” Purvis said. “These deployments are prudent steps to increase military capabilities and enhance flexibility.”

Based at Fort Campbell, Ky., the 101st is fast, mobile and deadly.

Its 20,000 soldiers ride to battle in the Blackhawk helicopter, with Apache gunships providing cover and support for the light infantrymen. The division can leap more than 100 miles behind enemy lines in one jump, as it did during the Persian Gulf War in 1991.

Organized in 1942, the unit’s paratroopers jumped into Normandy the night before D-Day. At Bastogne, during the Battle of the Bulge, it was the 101st’s acting commander, Maj. Gen. Anthony MacAuliffe, who responded with a one-word message — “NUTS!” — to a German demand for a surrender.

The division fought for seven years in Vietnam. Its troops have deployed to Rwanda and Somalia in recent years.

The total U.S. contingent in or near the Persian Gulf is expected to exceed 200,000 troops. The British are expected to contribute at least 40,000.

In other developments:

¶ NATO postponed until next week a final decision on a U.S.-backed plan to deploy anti-missile systems and other measures to protect Turkey in case of war. The move came as France, Germany and Belgium continued to resist heavy pressure to support the American

plan.

¶ Turkey’s parliament, under considerable pressure from the United States, voted to allow the United States to begin renovating military bases and ports for possible use by American combat troops. Turkish officials said another vote would be taken Feb. 18 on whether to allow U.S. troops to use that nation as a staging point for war, a crucial element of the Pentagon’s plan.

At the United Nations, diplomats praised Powell’s presentation Wednesday of the U.S. case against Saddam and signaled that the Security Council was beginning to move toward serious consideration of another resolution condemning Iraq and lending support to an American-led invasion.

Among countries viewed as the most reluctant to back military action are Germany and three veto-bearing members of the council: France, Russia and China.

To succeed, a resolution must win nine favorable votes from the 15 council members and mustn’t be vetoed by any of the five permanent members: Russia, France, China, Britain and the United States.

“I will take a risk. I do not think anybody is actually going to veto this time around out of the permanent members,” Sir Jeremy Greenstock, Britain’s U.N. ambassador, predicted on PBS.

On Capitol Hill, Powell said he sensed some progress at the United Nations, where he spoke one-on-one with diplomats from 13 of the 14 other countries on the council.

“There was some shift in attitude, a shift in attitude that suggested, I think, more and more nations are realizing that this cannot continue like this indefinitely,” he said. “And so I think there might be perhaps more support for a second resolution than some might think.”

Powell agreed with lawmakers that a U.N. resolution authorizing military force would be preferable, but not necessary, and he dismissed suggestions by the French and Germans that the United Nations send more inspectors into Iraq.

“Three times as many inspectors, as was suggested by my French colleague and seconded by my German colleague yesterday, might be useful if there was a change in attitude,” he said. “But if there’s no change in attitude, we don’t need to hire more detectives.”

Sen. Chuck Hagel, a Nebraska Republican who has urged the administration to go slowly before launching a war, told Powell he worries that Iraq is taking attention away from other trouble spots.

Democrats accused the administration of ignoring a greater threat in North Korea.

“There are other urgent threats to our security around the world. North Korea. I would list the Middle East. I’m concerned about

**continued on page 5**

# Military schooling subsidy faces cut

by Suzanne Gamboa

WASHINGTON (AP) - School officials nationwide are criticizing a proposal in President Bush's budget to stop compensating them for teaching children of military personnel who are not living on bases.

School administrators say the plan is particularly galling because Bush also is asking some parents of these kids to get ready to go to war with Iraq.

"We've got bases that are deploying troops and if these children go unfunded, as opposed to no child left behind, we'll be leaving all military children behind," Robert Edmonson, controller of the Copperas Cove, Texas, school district, said Thursday.

The federal government helps fund public school districts that educate children who live on military bases, making up for lost local taxes.

Bush's proposed budget, submitted this week, envisions eliminating children of military personnel who live off base from the funding formula used to calculate the in-lieu-of-taxes payments.

Edmonson said his district, where many Fort Hood children attend school, would lose \$9.5 million, about 20 percent of its operating budget.

A total of 1,300 school districts receive what is known as impact aid from the federal government because they can't assess taxes on federal property or tribal reservations, but still have to educate children whose parents live or work there.

The administration would still include in the formula the 142,000 children who live on military bases and attend local public schools. However, the 240,000 military children who live off base would no longer be counted in calculating the payments.

Bush also is proposing to eliminate payments for children of civilians working on government property and children living in federally owned low-income housing projects.

## **Bush urges U.N. not to back down, says 'the game is over' for Saddam continued**

what's not happening in Israel with a peace plan. We have allowed that to drift," Hagel told Powell.

"We have great challenges still in Afghanistan. The India-Pakistan issue is, I think, of great urgency. You did not make these problems, but you and the president and your team must deal with them."

Powell assured that the administration is not distracted by Iraq.

*Knight Ridder Newspapers correspondents Diego Ibarguen, Daniel Rubin and Warren P. Strobel contributed to this report.*

"If these students are living off base in private property, then the district is receiving property tax to pay for their education," said Amy Call, a spokeswoman for the White House Office of Management and Budget.

That explanation doesn't satisfy Rep. Chet Edwards, D-Texas, whose district includes Fort Hood. The Army post already has deployed the 12,500-member 4th Infantry Division and other military personnel in the buildup for any war with Iraq.

"What the bean counters at OMB missed is you simply don't send servicemen and women off to the Iraqi theater and as soon as they get on the plane tell them, 'By the way, we are cutting education funding for your children, who will be back here at home,'" Edwards said.

John Deegan, superintendent of Nebraska's 9,000-student Bellevue Public School District near Offutt Air Force Base, said his system would lose \$7 million. "I'm not sure how I can explain that to mothers of military soldiers who have been deployed," Deegan said.

The unified school district in San Diego would lose about \$3.5 million, said its controller, Richard Knott. He said his school district already is laying off people because of state budget cuts.

John Forkenbrock, executive director of the National Association of Federally Impacted Schools, said the government pays an average \$3,500 per child to local school districts for children living on base but not attending schools run by the Defense Department. For children of military personnel living off base, the payments average between \$700 and \$800 per child, he said.



*A squad of Marines with the 3rd Marine Expeditionary Forces based in Okinawa, Japan, drain their rubber boat as another squad paddles to shore during the joint Philippines and U.S. Marines exercise. AP photo.*

# Afghan national army's first unit goes on patrol

By Spc. Jim Wagner / 109th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

ORGUN-E, Afghanistan — The first operational unit in the Afghan National Army is making their presence known by patrolling local streets. The patrols serve a dual purpose at the edge of the Afghanistan border; not only do the missions hone war-fighting skills at the platoon level, it gives local civilians the chance to see their own army in action, officials said.

For many of the surrounding villages and towns in the Paktiki Province, the patrols are the only contact between Afghanistan's army and its local populace. 3rd Battalion is Afghanistan's first operational unit and officials said the community will hopefully accept the army as the future of the country's peace in the region.

At first, villagers in the more remote areas were visibly nervous to see a platoon of soldiers unload and set up a defensive perimeter around the military convoy.

For more than 20 years, Afghanistan's small towns have been caught between warring factions, from the Communists and mujadeen to the many tribal clashes with villagers appealing all sides to stay alive, officials said.

The advent of Afghanistan's first standing army in years brings hope to many of these villagers, officials said. At the village Saheer, located on the top of one mountain range that can be reached only by a winding road with many switchbacks, townsfolk received their first visit from the Afghan national army Jan. 21.

The platoon's commander asked for the village elder, and the trepidation slowly melted away as the two met and exchanged introductions. In the background, children ran out from alleyways and crowded close to catch a look at the new soldiers.

"When we first got there, I got the impression they were scared," said Senior Capt. Hazar Meir, acting commander of the 3rd Platoon, 2nd Company, 3rd Battalion. "I said, 'I am your brother and am from the Afghan national army. We are from your country.' After that, they were relieved to talk to us." At first cautious, when the village elder found out the Afghan national army was just stopping by to introduce themselves and offer assistance, he immediately listed a number of things desperately needed; wells for irrigation, schools and school materials.



*3rd Battalion Afghan national army soldiers patrol the streets in the town of Sorobi Marketplace. U.S. Army photo by Spec. Jim Wagner*

"I got the feeling they will welcome us in the future (and tell us) their problems, and their sons will join the Afghan national army," Meir said. "I told some of the people they should go to their provincial houses and talk to the officers there, to join the Afghan national army so we can make a united Afghanistan."

Besides introducing themselves to village elders throughout the province, 3rd Battalion's mission was also to collect intelligence on the surroundings to ensure the prosperity of the community. At every stop, the platoon commander asked for known mines and whether they've seen any bandits in the area.

Not everyone is as eager to see signs of a central government military force in their area, however. In the Sorobi Marketplace, a bazaar and rest area for travelers, located about 10 miles from the Pakistan border, citizens were a bit more nervous about the Afghan national army troops.

According to Amin Muhammad, an interpreter at Camp Harriman, the U.S. Army outpost outside of the city of Orgun-E, the marketplace still houses a number of Taliban and Al Qaeda supporters. The people who live in the area, he said, are reserving judgment on the Afghan national army until they see some positive steps.

That opinion is echoed by Muhammad Nawem, a 26-year-old resident, who saw the Afghan national army on patrol for the first time Jan. 22. "We're happy to have an army to bring peace and prosperity, if it's the real thing," he said. "We're not sure yet. We'd

**continued on page 11**

# Homeland security advisory system explained

**1. Low Condition (Green).** This condition is declared when there is a low risk of terrorist attacks. Federal departments and agencies should consider the following general measures in addition to the agency-specific Protective Measures they develop and implement:

- Refining and exercising as appropriate preplanned Protective Measures;
- Ensuring personnel receive proper training on the Homeland Security Advisory System and specific preplanned department or agency Protective Measures; and
- Institutionalizing a process to assure that all facilities and regulated sectors are regularly assessed for vulnerabilities to terrorist attacks, and all reasonable measures are taken to mitigate these vulnerabilities.

**2. Guarded Condition (Blue).** This condition is declared when there is a general risk of terrorist attacks. In addition to the Protective Measures taken in the previous Threat Condition, Federal departments and agencies should consider the following general measures in addition to the agency-specific Protective Measures that they will develop and implement:

- Checking communications with designated emergency response or command locations;
- Reviewing and updating emergency response procedures; and
- Providing the public with any information that would strengthen its ability to act appropriately.

**3. Elevated Condition (Yellow).** An Elevated Condition is declared when there is a significant risk of terrorist attacks. In addition to the Protective Measures taken in the previous Threat Conditions, Federal departments and agencies should consider the following general measures in addition to the Protective Measures that they will develop and implement:

- Increasing surveillance of critical locations;
- Coordinating emergency plans as appropriate with nearby jurisdictions;
- Assessing whether the precise characteristics of the threat require the further refinement of preplanned Protective Measures; and
- Implementing, as appropriate, contingency and

emergency response plans.

**4. High Condition (Orange).** A High Condition is declared when there is a high risk of terrorist attacks. In addition to the Protective Measures taken in the previous Threat Conditions, Federal departments and agencies should consider the following general

measures in addition to the agency-specific Protective Measures that they will develop and implement:

- Coordinating necessary security efforts with Federal, State, and local law enforcement agencies or any National Guard or other appropriate armed forces organizations;
- Taking additional precautions at public events and possibly considering alternative venues or even cancellation;
- Preparing to execute contingency procedures, such as moving to an alternate site or dispersing their workforce; and
- Restricting threatened facility access to essential personnel only.

**5. Severe Condition (Red).** A Severe Condition reflects a severe risk of terrorist attacks. Under most circumstances, the Protective Measures for a Severe Condition are not intended to be sustained for substantial periods of time. In addition to the Protective Measures in the previous Threat Conditions,

Federal departments and agencies also should consider the following general measures in addition to the agency-specific Protective Measures that they will develop and implement:

- Increasing or redirecting personnel to address critical emergency needs;
- Assigning emergency response personnel and pre-positioning and mobilizing specially trained teams or resources;
- Monitoring, redirecting, or constraining transportation systems; and
- Closing public and government facilities.



# Soldiers recount Afghan cave searches

by Mark Kennedy

BAGRAM, Afghanistan (AP) - Staff Sgt. Jefferey Paine's first combat assignment wasn't exactly easy.

The squad leader from Wilder, Vt. was told to climb thousands of feet up a rugged mountain in southeastern Afghanistan and root out dozens of militants believed to be hiding there.

"I was peering into caves, wondering what was in the darkness," he recalled Thursday.

Paine was one of about 500 U.S. soldiers sent to the area around the mountain, called Adi Ghar, on Jan. 27 after a devastating airstrike by U.S. and coalition aircraft that killed at least 18 militants.

Nine days later, all 75 caves in the area had been checked by soldiers of the 82nd Airborne Division and no more fighters were found. Several soldiers who spent days on the task shared their experiences Thursday.

Army 1st Lt. Charles Boldt's experience on the mountain began poorly. As a platoon leader with the first team to respond to a tip about enemy forces massed on the slopes, Boldt arrived Jan. 27 in one of two Chinook helicopters.

"After the helicopter landed, we had two Special Forces guys come up and tell us 'Hey, you just landed in a mine field,'" Boldt said. "So that was obviously a little intimidating right there." The landing area turned out to be safe.

The morning after the attack, Paine and Boldt were told to go cave-to-cave on the mountain to hunt for survivors. Some of the caves were large enough to walk into standing up; others required crouching down and crawling.

"You get up to them and you can't tell from a distance how deep they are," Paine said. "Some are a couple of feet deep and others are 50 feet. So you don't know exactly what you're going into until you actually turn the corner at the entrance."

Boldt, from New Smyrna Beach, Fla., also found himself peering into the darkness. He took no chances.

"We would prep all the caves as best as we could and try not to enter ones that might possibly be booby-trapped without first firing something at it - a rocket or a stun grenade or something like that. So we'd always try and at least stun whoever was possibly in the cave before we'd send guys in."

Days of searches yielded no fighters, but soldiers found blankets, food, vitamins, weapons caches and fuel. Eight more caves on Adi Ghar were destroyed Thursday, and a 20-year-old U.S. soldier suffering heart problems was airlifted to the U.S. base at Kandahar from the cave-clearing operation, near Spinboldak. He was in stable condition.

"The days were pretty fast actually. We really didn't know how long we'd be out there. We didn't know if it was going to be another three days, seven days. We just knew it was until our task was done," Paine said.



*US soldiers, from left, Captain William Bushman from Virginia, Specialist Cory Ragin from North Carolina, 1st Lieutenant Charles Boldt from Florida and Staff Sergeant Jefferey Paine from Vermont talk to reporters about their combat experience during "Operation Mongoose" at the US military base in Bagram, Afghanistan on Thursday Feb. 6, 2003. The cave-clearing operation was declared over Wednesday. Now safely back at the Bagram Air Base, the soldiers said they look back at the mission with pride. (AP Photo/Aaron Favila)*

Now safely back at Bagram Air Base, the soldiers said they look back at the mission with pride.

"I'd say it was a success," said Boldt. "You can never be 100 percent sure that you've found everything. There are tons of possible places that somebody can hide in a mountain. But we did our best."

For Capt. William Bushman, who helped plan logistics for the cave searches, one thing is clear: No longer can the mountain be used as a base for hostile forces.

"It seems like the enemy here really rely upon their ability to hide and the fact that we destroyed those cave entrances - no one will ever be able to go inside them again - it's one less place for them to hide," he said. "So by that measure, the operation was a success. One by one, we're a little bit closer."

Also Friday, U.S. special operations soldiers exchanged fire with enemy forces at a compound

**continued on page 9**

# How one soldier's e-mail changed troops' equipment

by Greg Jaffe, Staff Reporter Of The Wall Street Journal

Last July, a few weeks after he got back from Afghanistan, Master Sgt. Rudy Romero wrote a quick e-mail to one of his old commanding officers. "How's everything going sir? Let's get together for lunch. I know a pretty good place if you like Mexican," he began.

He followed that with three pages of advice from his tour in Afghanistan with the Army's 101st Airborne division — everything from the best gloves to take (fleece from AutoZone) to the best socks (Gore-Tex, available in camping stores). He also told his former boss to ditch the Army-issue ammunition sacks and instead buy bags from London Bridge Trading Co.

The 37-year-old soldier figured that sooner or later his former commander would be deployed to Afghanistan and that sharing his experience might make the tour easier. Little did he know that his military version of "Hints from Heloise" would make its way to the Pentagon's top brass and inspire significant changes in the way the Army is equipping its troops for possible future battles, including Iraq.

Sgt. Romero's old boss, Maj. Frank Sturek, forwarded the note to a couple of friends in his unit. They shot it to a few of their friends, and before Sgt. Romero knew it his e-mail, written in all capital letters, had landed in the in boxes of Army Sgt. Major Jack Tilley, the Army's senior enlisted soldier, and Army Chief of Staff Gen. Eric Shinseki, who said he found it fascinating.

It didn't stop there. A month after he hit the "send" button, Sgt. Romero got a call from Sgt. Major Tilley telling him that the Army wanted him to go to its U.S. Soldier Systems Center in Natick, Mass., where engineers were busily at work developing the gear that soldiers take into battle. Sgt. Romero grabbed two of his buddies at Fort Campbell, Ky., and headed out a few days later.

Once in Natick, the three were ushered into a theater, where they answered questions and spent two days meeting the 100 or so engineers responsible for designing the clothing and gadgets that soldiers wear or carry into combat. Sgt. Romero had lots of advice for the people who design the Army's tan desert boots, which troops wore in Afghanistan.

Although the boots worked just fine on the soft sands of Iraq, they fell to pieces after a couple of months in Afghanistan, where the ground is rocky. The engineers took note, and the Army is buying new boots with special composite soles that should stand up better in Central Asia.

His biggest complaint was that Army gear weighs too much. "We were easily carrying 80 lbs. Throw on the ruck [Army backpack] and you're sucking," he wrote.

To make their point, the three men explained how soldiers in Afghanistan consumed their Meals Ready to Eat, the plastic-wrapped all-in-one food packets that weigh about two pounds and last around three years. Before going into battle they "field stripped" the meals to cut down on their carrying weight. "We kept the high carb stuff

for energy and threw out everything else," Sgt. Romero told the nutritionist responsible for developing the meals.

Based in part on his suggestions, the Army is designing a lightweight Long Range Reconnaissance Patrol Ration.

The three raised another practical concern: Too many of the Army's new gadgets use different kinds of batteries, further increasing the load. Some soldiers, Sgt. Romero explained, buy commercial GPS locators from camping stores and discard their military-issue devices simply because the civilian ones use the same batteries as their night-vision goggles. The engineers, who had heard similar complaints before, said they would keep that in mind but made no promises.

Today Sgt. Romero's e-mail is still posted on several military Web sites and in a half-dozen or so Internet chat rooms. The message tells a couple of bone-chilling war stories, including one about the time a 2,000-pound, satellite-guided bomb veered off course and nearly killed his company. "It didn't go off by a sheer miracle I'm sure," he wrote.

But mostly the e-mail focuses on matters far more mundane. For example, Sgt. Romero tells his former commander not to bother with Army-issue winter gloves. They are warm and waterproof, but soldiers can't pull a rifle trigger when wearing them, which is a big problem in combat. Aviator gloves are good, he writes. Even better are the fleece gloves sold at AutoZone.

And the best munitions for clearing out a cave? "Bring lots of Thermite grenades and C-4," he suggests. His unit, not accustomed to clearing caves, never seemed to have enough.

Finally, he advises his colleagues to bring iodine tablets to purify water — something U.S. soldiers did for decades, but his unit, unaccustomed to the rigors of war, left behind at Fort Campbell. "We've lost a lot of our needed field craft," he laments in the e-mail.

Sgt. Romero's e-mail is full of praise for the training he received before he was deployed and for the troops who fought at his side. "Soldiers did great. You can always depend on them. They are extremely brave and want to fight," he concludes. "They'll do it just like we teach them."

## Soldiers recount Afghan cave searches continued

southwest of the city of Gardez. The American troops were fired on by small arms and machine guns. Several men were detained and there were no injuries on either side, military spokesman Col. Roger King said.

King also said that attack helicopters scrambled Thursday to deter fighting between rival Afghan factions that erupted north of the U.S. headquarters in Afghanistan. The helicopters did not fire.

**[www.goarmy.com](http://www.goarmy.com)**

# Managing your money when duty calls

by Sandra Block, USA Today

In October of 2001, Dan Bredeson, 34, moved to San Antonio to work in the education and training division of USAA, a financial services company. After just one week at his new job, he was notified that his Air Force Reserve unit had been activated in response to the Sept. 11 attacks. He was gone for eight months.

Now, Bredeson is preparing to leave again. He learned last week that his unit has been placed on high alert for deployment. If he's activated, he'll join more than 110,000 National Guard and reserve forces serving around the world in preparation for a possible war with Iraq. In the next few weeks, the number is expected to rise to 180,000.

Along with the emotional toll, deployment can create financial hardships. Bredeson's employer, which provides financial services to military families, made up the difference between his salary and military pay. Not all companies do, and some only offer it for a few months. If you're facing deployment, it's important to get your finances in order now. Once you receive your orders, you may not have much time to prepare. Some steps you can take to reduce the financial damage and protect your family's financial security:

## **Taxes**

\*Find out if you qualify for the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC). About 1 million members of the military will be eligible on their 2002 tax returns, an increase of about 400,000 from 2001, says Susan Boehmer, who heads the program for the IRS. Starting in 2002, military personnel can exclude non-taxable income, like supplemental pay for housing and combat pay, when calculating eligibility for the credit, Boehmer says.

Credits are much more valuable than deductions because they reduce your tax bill dollar for dollar. If your EITC exceeds the amount you owe in taxes, you'll get a check for the excess credit. For 2002, the maximum EITC is \$4,140. Income limits for the EITC have also increased. For 2002, a married couple with two children may qualify for a full or partial credit if their adjusted gross income is less than \$34,178.

\*Take advantage of free tax services for military personnel. The IRS Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program offers free tax help at military bases around the USA, and recently added sites overseas, says Margaret Warren, a development director at the IRS. This year, volunteers will focus on helping military personnel figure out if they're eligible for the EITC, she says.

TaxSlayer, an Internet tax preparer, is offering free electronic preparation and filing for active duty military personnel. You can find it at [www.taxslayer.com](http://www.taxslayer.com).

## **Insurance**

\*Check your life insurance. All active duty personnel, including reservists, are covered for up to \$250,000 by the Servicemembers'

Group Life Insurance program. You can find more information about the program at [www.insurance.va.gov](http://www.insurance.va.gov).

If you have a private policy, which can provide additional coverage, make sure it doesn't contain a war clause, says Jim Moon, program manager for USAA and a retired Army lieutenant colonel. Some life insurance policies won't cover deaths from war or combat.

\*If you're planning to put your car in storage, talk to your insurer. You may be able to reduce your premiums while you're away, Moon says. And changing your status to "non-operator" may provide a break if your spouse has a better driving record.

\*Talk to your homeowners insurer if your home will be unoccupied. A home left vacant for more than 60 days may be considered abandoned, and your insurance may not cover it, Moon says. Consider adding a home security system. It could lower your premiums and provide peace of mind while you're gone.

## **Banking and debt**

\*Take advantage of the Soldiers' and Sailors' Civil Relief Act to lower interest rates on your debt. The federal law is designed to help reservists and members of the Guard who suffer financial hardship while on active duty. Lenders are required to cap interest rates on outstanding loans at 6%. This relief isn't automatic: You must notify lenders of your military status. The law only covers loans issued before deployment. The law also makes it more difficult for mortgage lenders to foreclose if you fall behind on payments. For more information, check out [www.military.com](http://www.military.com).

\*Consider setting up automatic bill payment from your checking or savings account. Set up online banking and credit card accounts. These days, even remote military bases have Internet access.

\*Review ownership records. If a car or mortgage is in your name, your spouse may be unable to make important financial decisions, says Jon Meyer, a financial planner in Minneapolis. Meyer says one of his clients whose husband is on active duty tried to change the bank account used to pay her mortgage. The lender refused to approve the change because the mortgage was in her husband's name.

\*If you have a joint checking account, consider setting up overdraft protection. Both you and your spouse will be writing checks and taking ATM withdrawals from the account, Moon notes. Miscommunication can lead to bounced checks.

## **Estate planning**

\*Assign power of attorney. It enables a spouse, relative or friend the ability to make financial decisions in your absence, ranging from a bounced check to insurance claim. You can revoke it when you return.

**continued on page 11**

## **Afghan national army's first unit goes on patrol continued**

like to join the army, but we'll have to see how they act as a society and how they act in our county."

The ANA is also providing humanitarian assistance in the Orgun-E region. On Jan. 24, soldiers visited the town of Sorobi and distributed school materials to two girls' schools in the city. The headmaster from one of the schools said the pens, pencils, crayons, cardboard paper and books were a welcome addition, since many schools don't have any school materials at all.

So far, the reaction to the Afghan national army in the Orgun-E district has been positive, officials said. While patrolling through the Sorobi Marketplace, children thronged the Afghan soldiers, peppering them with questions and taking the informational pamphlets the soldiers were passing to everyone. The biggest positive sign was the group of children laughing and waving to the Afghan national army soldiers as they left the area. As one of the soldiers put it, "the children are our future."

In that case, many should be joining the ANA when they come of age, officials added.



*Senior Capt. Hazar Meir, acting commander of 3rd Platoon, 2nd Company, 3rd Battalion, Afghan national army, distributes clothing to a girl from one of the Sorobi city elementary schools. The Afghan national army routinely donates clothing and school supplies to villages in the Orgun-E district.*

*U.S. Army photo by Spec. Jim Wagner*

**[goordnance.apg.army.mil](http://goordnance.apg.army.mil)**

## **Managing your money when duty calls continued**

\*Make sure you have a valid and updated will. Name a guardian for your children. Spell out in your will how your property should be distributed.

Bredeson used checklists provided by USAA when he was called up in 2001, and believes he's in good shape for his next tour of duty. He plans to ask friends to stay in his house while he's away, and he has set up electronic bill-paying accounts. He hopes to file his taxes before he leaves.

"You never really know what's in store," he says. "So you usually prepare for the worst and hope for the best."

### **Where to get more information:**

\*USAA Education Foundation, [www.usaaedfoundation.org](http://www.usaaedfoundation.org), offers free information on insurance, estate planning and money management.

\*Military.com, [www.military.com](http://www.military.com), offers financial tips and a good overview of the Soldiers' and Sailors' Civil Relief Act.

\*IRS Publication 3, the Armed Forces' Tax Guide, offers guidance on preparing your 2002 tax returns. You can find it at [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov).



*This U.S. Army handout photo, released Friday Feb. 7, 2003, shows CH-47 Chinook helicopters from the 101st Airborne Division transport 82nd Airborne Division infantrymen back to Kandahar Air Field from the Spinboldak area, near the border with Pakistan. The 82nd troops were clearing caves that could be used by the Taliban and al-Qaeda. This photo was taken in the past two days. (AP Photo/U.S. Army, Cpl Keith A. Kluwe, HO)*

# Ordnance soldier runs marathons for the Army

*SPC Patrick Muturi is a power generation equipment repairer (MOS 52D) who trained at Aberdeen Proving Ground with the 16th Ordnance Battalion. His interest in the Army's World Class Athlete Program began while he was training at APG. The following interview is from the Runner's World Daily website, Feb. 6, 2003.*

by Mike Sandrock

Patrick Muturi, a 30-year-old native Kenyan who ran 2:08:59 five years ago, is now an American citizen and will be competing in the 2003 Men's National Marathon Championships this weekend in Birmingham, Alabama. Patrick Muturi, 30, is a native Kiambu, Kenya, who became a U.S. citizen Oct. 28, 2002. Now a member of the Army's World Class Athlete Program, Muturi will run the Birmingham Marathon on Feb. 8, this year's USATF national championships. Muturi competed one year for Washington State, with a best finish of third in the 1994 NCAA 10,000 meters. He has specialized in the marathon since then, and has a personal best of 2:08:59 from the 1997 Chicago Marathon. Muturi is single and lives in Lafayette, Colo.

**Runner's World Daily:** Why did you decide to join the Army?

**Patrick Muturi:** What happened was that when I came to the United States, I was not economically very strong. But things are going well now and I do not have to worry about food or housing, and I decided I wanted to be in some kind of service to this country. First, I thought about the Peace Corps, but eventually decided on the army. I knew the army had some good runners, but I did not know they had this program until I joined. I applied for the position and was accepted. I have been with the army since August, 2001.

**RWD:** What was your background in Kenya?

**PM:** Kiambu, where I was born, is in central Kenya, with an altitude of at least 5000 feet. Actually, I played soccer and volleyball, and all sports, in school. One of the coaches there was an athletic coach. He realized I had good endurance from playing soccer, and he transformed me into a long-distance runner. At first I did not believe him, but eventually it worked out. I first came (to the U.S.) in 1994, and lived here on and off, and in Europe and South America. I traveled a lot.

**RWD:** Have you won many marathons?

**PM:** I won the California International Marathon, I won Grandma's Marathon twice, San Francisco once. I was second in Pittsburgh and second in the 1995 World University Games in the marathon. I have not raced the 10-K much; my best time is 28:28, and I have run 47 minutes for 10 miles and 1 hour, 2 minutes, 51 seconds for the half marathon.

**RWD:** How is your training going now?

**PM:** I have rented a room with a nice family here, and actually my training is going very well. Before I joined the Army I thought I was very tough. Now I realize I am even tougher. Whatever the Army does, it does well. It has given me the mindset to endure the hardships that accompany running. It also does a good job in giving us the opportunity and the discipline to be the best we can be.

**RWD:** Are you worried about being called up if war takes place with Iraq?

**PM:** Being a soldier is the first thing for us. Running, and everything else, is second. If for any reason we are needed to go, it will be my duty and my responsibility to respond in case of a national need. And we will all do that.

**RWD:** What is your specific duty?

**PM:** I am a power generator mechanic. We operate at combat speed, and most of my work involves trouble shooting and making repairs.

**RWD:** How do you like training under your coach, Arturo Barrios?

**PM:** He is great. The army team works together very harmoniously. The army emphasizes discipline and respect for each other as a team and everyone else; we have civilians training with us. We have a good working environment.

**RWD:** What is your goal for Birmingham?

**PM:** I have not run a marathon in almost two years. I would like to qualify for the Olympic trials, and once I do that, I will worry later about getting a fast time. If I made the team for the World Championships (at Birmingham) I would go, because that is a goal of mine. I am very proud of this country and would like to represent the U.S. in running. I am American now, which is a dream come true. This country has given me a second chance in a lot of ways, and I would not hesitate to go and do something good for the United States, which has brought me much joy and satisfaction. God has blessed me so much, and sometimes it is good to give back and bless others. I just want to do my part for the system that has been so kind to me. After that, I will see what God has in mind.

**OrdnanceReports  
are archived at  
[www.goordnance.apg.  
army.mil/  
ordnancereports.htm](http://www.goordnance.apg.army.mil/ordnancereports.htm)**

by Rudi Williams, American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, Feb. 6, 2003 — Orson G. Swindle III, who spent six years and four months as a prisoner of war in North Vietnam, told the audience at DoD's 9th annual POW/MIA Prayer Breakfast about the horrors of prison camp and that the nation "must get it right" during such troubled times.

This year's prayer breakfast here was the largest ever. More than 230 people attended, including 13 former POWs and three Medal of Honor recipients.

"This morning we speak about the power of prayer in our lives," said Swindle, a Federal Trade Commission commissioner and retired Marine Corps lieutenant colonel. He holds 20 decorations, including two Silver Stars and two Bronze Star Medals for valor in combat and two Purple Hearts.

He said he was sharing some of his personal experiences "reluctantly because it's difficult." Held in North Vietnam's "Hanoi Hilton," Swindle said prisoners in the north were treated harshly, but those held prisoner in South Vietnam suffered "even more gross deprivation, harshness and suffering."

"We don't consider ourselves heroes," he noted. "We're survivors and we survived through mutual support, wit, cunning, prayer and just a helluva lot of luck. Many didn't survive. I had a couple of cellmates who didn't make it home. It's to their memory that each of us, when asked to tell our stories, ask that we not forget.

"I was shot down on my very last mission — that's pretty bad," Swindle said. "I was immediately captured, taken down into a hole and beaten all night. The next morning, on Nov. 12, it was raining. I was in a terrible state of shock. I was taken out to a hut for interrogation."

Swindle told the audience about the North Vietnamese cutting off the circulation in his arms by cinching them behind his back in a painful position. They pulled his arms so his forearms went up his spine and his elbows touched in back, he said.

"Then they started beating me," he said. "The pain creates almost an insanity. You strain to get loose, but you're not going to get loose. But the strains block out the pain and you're just hanging there. You come to the realization that you're not in control of your destiny."

## **Former 'Hanoi Hilton' resident keynotes DoD POW/MIA Prayer Breakfast**



Being a POW was a life of not knowing how your family was, Swindle said. "I didn't get a letter for about four years," he said. "Some were fortunate enough to get a letter once in a while. Some never received letters. Some families never (realized) their husbands or sons were alive."

"We came home to a country torn by the war to a degree difficult to fathom and to a cynicism and distrust of political leadership that is still with us," Swindle said. "I can't describe to you the difficulty of coping with what we were hearing while we were POWs, but we coped."

"I don't believe our country can go through this again," he said.

Swindle said he agrees with those who declare Saddam Hussein a tyrant and a threat to peace in his region, but, he asked, removing him from power would come "at what price?"

"Will it ignite a generations-long war with religious and ethnic underpinnings?" Swindle asked. He said the nation needs to "be right" for all the right reasons, and revenge is not necessarily one of them.

"Level with the American people and those young men and women sent into harm's way about the sacrifices to come and the risks we're to experience. Don't betray our support, our sacrifice and our trust as was done in Vietnam," Swindle said.

"Lead with conviction, be bold and be tough as hell," he urged. "Without fail, have a strategy to win not only the short war, but the end-game, too!"

Swindle said the nation should pray for the men and women in harm's way, the American people and for political leaders.

**Defend America News**  
**WAR ON TERROR**

**[www.defendamerica.mil/](http://www.defendamerica.mil/)**



*A South Korean train engineer passes a signpost showing the direction to the North Korean capital at Imjinkak station, near the Demilitarized Zone, February 7, 2003. The United States said it was ready for any contingency after North Korea issued threats of pre-emptive attack and suggested it was poised to restart an atomic reactor central to its suspected drive for nuclear arms. Reuters photo.*



*Staff Sgt. Dominic D'Ambra Jr., of Smithfield, R.I., checks his supply of fatigues as he packs for deployment with the 1207th Transportation Company of the Rhode Island National Guard at Camp Fogarty in East Greenwich, R.I., Thursday, Feb. 6, 2003. The 200 members of the 1207th are part of the force of 794 Rhode Islanders being deployed on Monday, Feb. 10, 2003. (AP Photo/Joe Giblin).*



*Italy's Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi (R) and Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld meet at the Chigi Palace in Rome February 7, 2003. Rumsfeld is due to visit troops at the U.S. Air Force Base in Aviano, northern Italy and then fly to Munich where he will address a major European security conference. Reuters photo.*



*Helicopters line one of the runways at Naval Air Station Jacksonville on Thursday in Jacksonville, Fla., as aircraft from the 101st Airborne Division out of Fort Campbell, Ky., stage at the base before being shipped overseas. AP photo.*